by the international community, which openly recognizes Pakistan's state sponsorship of terrorism and the impact this has on the security of India and the region.

Visit of Foreign Minister to Moscow

2345. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had recently paid a visit to Moscow for talks and longterm collaboration in defence, trade and economic affairs; and

(b) if so, the outcome of the talks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) The External Affairs Minister paid an official visit to the Russian Federation from May 23—25, 1999. During the visit, EAM had a telephonic conversation with then President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Boris Yeltsin. EAM also met Deputy Prime Minister Valentina Matvienko, then Secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin, then Special Envoy of the Russian President to the Balkans Viktor Chernomyrdin and the Mayor of the City of Moscow Yuri Luzhkov. EAM had a detailed exchange of views on bilateral, regional and international issues with his counterpart, Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov. During these discussions, both sides underlined that Indo- Russian relations were time-tested and based on continuity, trust and mutual understanding. Our interaction with the Russian Federation is comprehensive and multifaceted. Further measures to strengthen and develop our bilateral cooperation in all areas were touched upon. It was agreed that a Declaration on Strategic Partnership between India and the Russian Federation would be signed at the next Indo-Russian Summit.

Dues on United Nation

2346. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that United Nation owes India's about $50 million in peace keeping dues;

(b) if so, since when these arrears have been due;

(c) whether Government have taken up the matter with United Nations; and

(d) by when UN proposes to pay the dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (d) The exact amount of reimbursement from the UN for troops and equipment contributed by India for various peacekeeping operations is under discussion/negotiation with the UN Headquarters. The UN authorities have so far certified that an amount of US $ 26.06 million is to be paid to the Government of Inida. Additional claims are being processed. The majority of claims relate to India's peace-keeping activities in Somalia (UNOSOM) and pending since 1995. The payment by the UN is released, depending on availability of funds from member States. India has been calling upon Member States in arrears for the UN peace-keeping budget, to pay their contributions in full, on time and without condition so that timely reimbursements can be made to all troop-contributing countries. The Government of India is also pursuing with the UN the question of early settlement of its claims.

White paper on Pakistan's involvement on subversive activities

2347. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to release a white paper on Pakistan's involvement on various subversive activities creating grave threat to India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (b) The question of preparing a white paper on Pakistan's involvement in subversive activities in India is under consideration of Government.

Opening of new chapter of ties by Clinton's India visit

2348. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Hindustan Times on 26th February, 2000, captioned as Talbott: Clinton's India visit to open new chapter in ties;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?